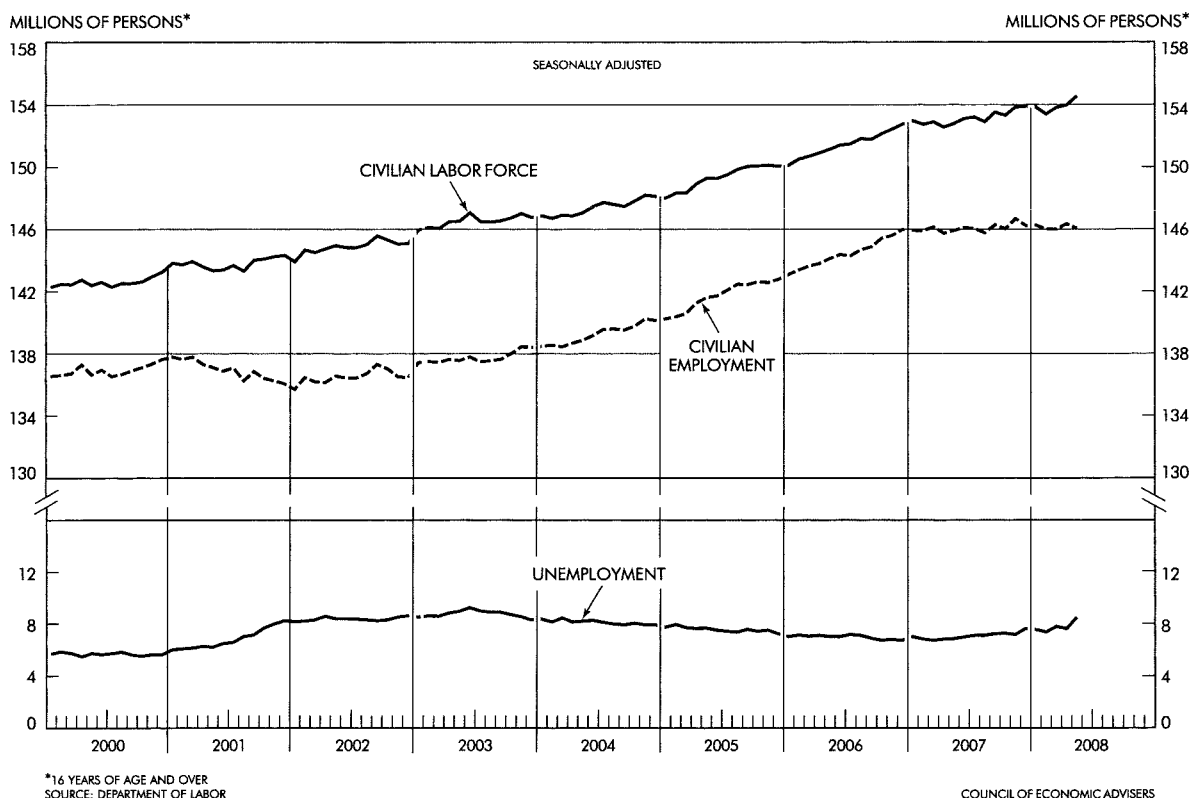


EMPLOYMENT, UNEMPLOYMENT, AND WAGES

STATUS OF THE LABOR FORCE

In May, employment fell by 285,000 and unemployment rose by 861,000.



[Thousands of persons 16 years of age and over, except as noted; monthly data seasonally adjusted except as noted by NSA]

Period	Civilian noninstitutional population (NSA)	Civilian labor force	Civilian employment				Unemployment				Not in labor force	Percent ¹		
			Total	Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16-19 years	Total	Men 20 years and over	Women 20 years and over	Both sexes 16-19 years		Labor force participation rate	Employment/population ratio	Unemployment rate
1998 ²	205,220	137,673	131,463	67,135	57,278	7,051	6,210	2,580	2,424	1,205	67,547	67.1	64.1	4.5
1999 ²	207,753	139,368	133,488	67,761	58,555	7,172	5,880	2,433	2,285	1,162	68,385	67.1	64.3	4.2
2000 ²	212,577	142,583	136,891	69,634	60,067	7,189	5,692	2,376	2,235	1,081	69,994	67.1	64.4	4.0
2001	215,092	143,734	136,933	69,776	60,417	6,740	6,801	3,040	2,599	1,162	71,359	66.8	63.7	4.7
2002	217,570	144,863	136,485	69,734	60,420	6,332	8,378	3,896	3,228	1,253	72,707	66.6	62.7	5.8
2003 ²	221,168	146,510	137,736	70,415	61,402	5,919	8,774	4,209	3,314	1,251	74,658	66.2	62.3	6.0
2004 ²	223,357	147,401	139,252	71,572	61,773	5,907	8,149	3,791	3,150	1,208	75,956	66.0	62.3	5.5
2005 ²	226,082	149,320	141,730	73,050	62,702	5,978	7,591	3,392	3,013	1,186	76,762	66.0	62.7	5.1
2006 ²	228,815	151,428	144,427	74,431	63,834	6,162	7,001	3,131	2,751	1,119	77,387	66.2	63.1	4.6
2007 ²	231,867	153,124	146,047	75,337	64,799	5,911	7,078	3,259	2,718	1,101	78,743	66.0	63.0	4.6
2007: May	231,480	152,776	145,913	75,343	64,710	5,860	6,863	3,154	2,608	1,101	78,704	66.0	63.0	4.5
June	231,713	153,085	146,087	75,292	64,828	5,968	6,997	3,212	2,653	1,133	78,628	66.1	63.0	4.6
July	231,958	153,182	146,045	75,324	64,792	5,930	7,137	3,295	2,774	1,067	78,776	66.0	63.0	4.7
Aug	232,211	152,886	145,753	75,274	64,826	5,653	7,133	3,252	2,790	1,092	79,325	65.8	62.8	4.7
Sept	232,461	153,506	146,260	75,332	65,033	5,895	7,246	3,357	2,762	1,126	78,955	66.0	62.9	4.7
Oct	232,715	153,306	146,016	75,274	64,827	5,914	7,291	3,389	2,796	1,105	79,409	65.9	62.7	4.8
Nov	232,939	153,828	146,647	75,834	65,980	5,832	7,181	3,240	2,796	1,145	79,111	66.0	63.0	4.7
Dec	233,156	153,866	146,211	75,499	64,912	5,801	7,655	3,505	2,954	1,196	79,290	66.0	62.7	5.0
2008: Jan ²	232,616	153,824	146,248	75,427	65,098	5,724	7,576	3,437	2,885	1,254	78,792	66.1	62.9	4.9
Feb	232,809	153,374	145,993	75,362	64,950	5,681	7,381	3,386	2,865	1,130	79,436	65.9	62.7	4.8
Mar	232,995	153,784	145,969	75,197	65,055	5,717	7,815	3,641	3,104	1,070	79,211	66.0	62.6	5.1
Apr	233,198	153,957	146,331	75,148	65,260	5,923	7,626	3,628	2,916	1,082	79,241	66.0	62.7	5.0
May	233,405	154,534	146,046	75,001	65,138	5,907	8,487	3,877	3,252	1,358	78,872	66.2	62.6	5.5

¹ Civilian labor force (or employment) as percent of civilian noninstitutional population; and unemployment as percent of civilian labor force.

² Not strictly comparable with earlier data.

NOTE.—Beginning January 2008 data reflect revised population controls and are not strictly comparable with earlier data.

See *Employment and Earnings* for details on breaks in series.
Source: Department of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics.